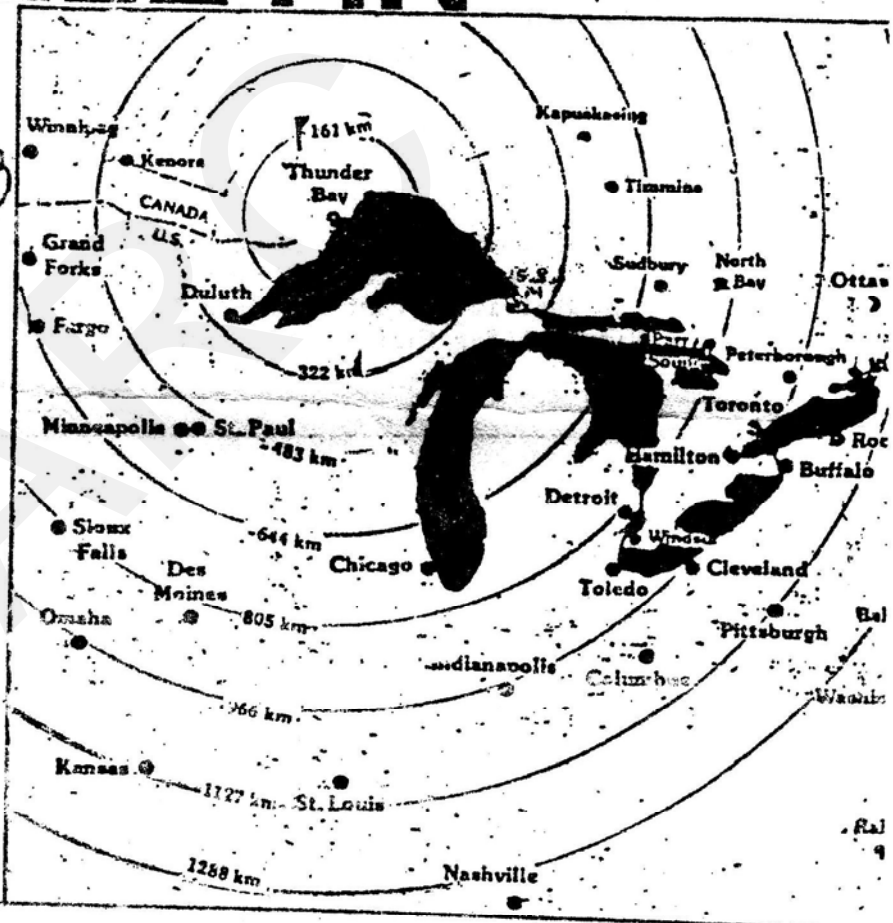


# LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BULLETIN



## REPEATERS

TBR 146.82

YQT 147.06

CLUB STATION  
VE3FW

FOUNDED 1934

INCORPORATED 1979

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LARC IS JANUARY 8, 1987 at 7:30 PM, In  
the EMO BUILDING ON THE CORNER OF VICTORIA AND WATERLOO.

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#### The January Meeting

For the January Meeting Bob VE3JAB is to do a presentation  
on Radio Astronomy. Dont miss this one.

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#### The Saltmine Net

The Saltmine Net is still going very strong. It seems  
that there is a winner for the contest for the most regular  
check-in. I am not at liberty to say who this person is but  
when the contest is over every one will be filled in.

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#### Thanks

I would like to thank Tom VE3CX for his major article  
and his several smaller articles that he contributed. And  
for what it is worth I would like to thank the TBBS/TB now  
Micronet for their help in passing messages for HI-Q.

Editor

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#### ARES

The snowmobile race from Thunder Bay to St. Paul is to  
be covered by Ops from the LARC. As of yet there are enough  
operators to cover this event. The LARC is only responsible  
for coverage from Thunder Bay to the Border. It should be  
a super event that will prove to be profitable to all.

Editor

Minutes for the Executive Meeting, December 10, 1986.

Present - VE3BBS, VE3XT, VE3KRO, VE3NHX, VE3JSC, VE3BCD

The Repeater up-date was to take priority at the December General Meeting.

The door prize at the February Dinner is to be a Yaesu HT.

There was not any information on the progress of the passing of the Christmas messages.

A slight problem with the validity of incoming QSLs was cleared up.

Discussed further, was the premature cut off of speed dials on TBR.

Preliminary discussion on Field Day '87.

Minutes of the General Meeting, December 11, 1986.

Present - VE3BBS, VE3JAB, VE3XT, VE3BCD.

The meeting was opened by VE3BBS and preceeded by a round table.

The correspondence was tabled.

The financial report was given showing the club's account to have a total of \$3073.00.

The Licencing exams were forwarded to the course instructors.

Phone Bills, Dues, the changing of the phone number on Carrie St. and the problem QSL cards were put forth before the membership.

The Christmas messages apparently being organized as reported by VE3JAB. Also extra stations were recruited for assistance in the task.

Tickets were and still are available for the February dinner at \$12.00 a person, from VE3JAU.

Reported was that YQT is operating. It's autopatch is to be moved to the club station. Aswell a new UHF receiver is to be added to improve a noise problem.

Reported was that TBR needs to have it's duplexers replaced, it's receiver also needs to be replaced. Also on the list of repairs is the controller which needs to be rejuvenated.

A motion was put forward to up-grade YQT by VE3XY and seconded by VE3JAJ. The approximated cost was \$1000.00. The motion was carried.

Under ARES this month the City of Thunder Bay requires the assistance of LARC in covering communications from Thunder Bay to St. Paul during a Snow Mobile Race.

The Code and Theory Courses are proceeding but the number of students attending classes has dropped.

The meeting was adjourned by LMV and seconded by AUP at 8:50 P.M.

73's Leo VE3XT

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#### The 50/50 Draw

Well if the 50/50 draw continues on the way it has the club is going to have to hire Brinks to move the pot (hi hi). The 50/50 draw for December was won by Arnold VE3JAA but since he was not present he was unable to claim his prize.

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#### Dirty Laundry

VE3KRO is looking for the missing mast... VE3TBA, 'Dunk', has a TS-940, a TL-922 driver, and a big black box for an after burner, complete with 4 elements on 40 that rotate... VE3NNR has a new 'one-holer' to keep the shack warm... Lots of action on six meters these days - check 52.52 simplex. Rumour has it a machine is also in the works... callsign VE3TBA!?!?! VE3CK likes to keep very late hours... VE3CX has a new project 'in the works'... VE3BQR is Thunder Bay's newest digipeater?? VE3JSC needs a bigger desk to hold all his new toys... VE3HFS is waiting for the 'three-holer' (afterburner) to arrive... VE3BCD has his eye on a new toy... VE3KRV has two - two meter rigs (for stereo??) VE3OTC was recently seen being gobbled up by a porcupine??!

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#### Getting Started...

Now that you are on the bands, I am sure you are wondering how to get a WSL card from all these people you have been contacting on the bands. If you decide to QSL directly (to his home address), and expect a similar reply, it is going to be a very expensive proposition.

Here is why. First off, you will have to put your QSL card that you are sending into an envelope. Granted, one envelope is not much, but a thousand will cost you a few dollars. Then, before you can mail, you will have to put on the appropriate postage. It's 34 cents in Canada, 39 cents to the U.S. and around 70 for overseas. Once the other

amateur receives your card, he will appreciate (read - expect) return postage, along with an SAE (self addressed envelope).

Since you probably don't have postage for his country, you will have to send IRC's (International Reply Coupons), which are available from the post office for around 80 or 90 cents each. In most cases, you will send one or two for North America, three or so for overseas. On top of that, you will need callbooks (they are available at the club) to find his address. Once you have done all this, there is no guarantee that you will get a card. For all you know, he has moved, kept his call, and the callbook will not have his current address.

If you add it all up, the cost is well over a dollar a card - it's not so cheap anymore! There has to be a better way, and there is. Use the bureau, or BURO for short on CW. It is a very inexpensive way to exchange QSLs, but there is a trade off. It is slow. On average it will take between a year to two years to get a reply to your QSL, but it will not cost you an arm and a leg in the process. In most cases, who cares if you get his card tomorrow, or next year?

Lets go for a little trip to see how it all works. There really two QSL bureaus - an outgoing QSL service, and an incoming bureau. Although they are different, they are tied together. So, you work a guy on the band and decide to QSL. Lets follow your QSL through the system and see what happens.

To use the outgoing QSL service, you will have to be a member of either CARF or CRRL. Rather than just send your one QSL to them, you might as well wait for a week or two, and send them 30 or 40 cards at the same time. Chalk up a few weeks waiting time in your shack while you make the QSO's and fill out the QSL's to send out. Once you are ready, follow the instructions in either TCA or QST on where to send the cards. Lets say our card is headed off to OZ7HT in Denmark.

After you mail your cards to the outgoing bureau, they arrive intact a few days later. Since they handle outgoing QSL's for all of Canada, they will wait for a few weeks until they have enough cards to make it worthwhile sending the cards to Denmark. By the way, in case you are wondering, QSL bureaus are manned by volunteers. All sorting, packaging, mailing, etc. is done in their spare time as time permits. Anyway, your card will sit there for a few more weeks, waiting to be sent as part of a package to Denmark.

Finally the big day arrives, and off it goes. Since fast service is not a priority, and cost is, the bundle is usually sent by the cheapest method: usually surface mail. Once it gets there a few weeks later, the package is opened. The QSLs are sorted, and your card goes in an envelope to be sent to OZ7HT. Once he has enough cards saved up, they are packaged up, and sent on their way. If he is active, and is getting a lot of QSLs, your card may go out very quickly. If he is on only occasionally, your card may sit there for a few months. No matter, he will get it in due course.

Once he gets his cards from the bureau, he will see your card, fill out one of his cards, and send his card to his outgoing QSL bureau. Once again, it may be a few months before your card gets sent out. The outgoing QSL bureau there will bundle up all the cards for Canada, and when there is enough, they will be sent here.

When the package arrives here, it will change hands a few times, and will end up in Downsview, Ont, with a group called the Ontario Trilliums. They will sort the cards, and hold them.

The Ontario Trilliums are a volunteer organization, and they are providing free manpower to handle your QSL. All they ask is that you provide them with SAE's, and return postage. They will put all of your QSL cards in your envelope, and when there is enough, they will send them to you.

As you can see, your QSL will change hands many times before it reaches its destination, and many times when a card is returned to you. All the work is done by volunteers. They will put all of your QSL cards in your envelope, and when there is enough, they will send them to you.

As you can see, the whole process can take years to complete before you get a reply to your QSL. Now you know why. I think you can also see that this is a much more cost effective way of sending out a QSL card: it costs pennies a card instead of dollars.

By the way, the address where to send your self addressed envelopes with LOOSE postage is as follows (send extra postage, just in case you have lots of cards coming in):

The Ontario Trilliums ARC  
BOX 157, Downsview, Ont.,  
M3M 3A3

Good DX, and enjoy!

73 - Tom - VE3CX

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### The Rumour Mill

The following items may seem like a bit of confused tricia, but with everything under tight wraps these days (locked doors, armed guards, and all that other good stuff used for classified data), it's hard to get all the facts, and keep them straight. Anyway, I beleive that I have some pieces of a major scandal uncovered, and I will disclose my findings, in the hope that someone can figure it all out and tell me!!

VE3TBA is a new six meter repeater - 52.52 in, 53.52 out?

VE3YQT has a working autopatch?

VE3TBR is being converted into a linear transponder (what is that, anyway)?

VE3TBU is now keeping VE3TBR company atop the elevator shaft? A new C 64 based BBS is working at VE3FW? (623-6501 - 300/1200 baud, 24 hours. Limited message base due to only one drive)?

VE3TBA is a PI-RAT callsign?? (then how can it be a six meter repeater?)

VE3TBX has a very interesting message base (but can it sing and dance?)

VE3TBD (?) is nearing completion.

VE3TBU has links set up for Toronto, Winnipeg and Duluth? (and the space shuttle).

VE3AUP was heard in QSO with RG8AU?

Above submissions courtesy of 'The Leading Edge' - TBARS weekly publication.

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#### Letter Received from the DX Colvins

We received the following note (dated Nov. 20) from Lloyd and Iris Colvin, W5KG and W6QL...

"We started off our current six month YASME DXpedition on 3 October by flying from San Francisco, Ca., to the country of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. We had thought that we could obtain licenses there, but the answer was NO! We tried everything we could think of, but they were not issuing amateur licenses to foreign amateurs at the present time.

We then went to the island of French Reunion for which we hold licenses direct from France. We arrived there just before the CQ World DX Contest. We really worked hard to find a place to live, install our station, and get on the air. Two local amateurs were of great assistance, Buy, FR5ZG, and Herik, FR5DX.

The contest was a big help in getting started with lots of countries we ked. We used the call FR/W6QL. We closed the station November 16 with some 8,000 QSO's with amateurs in 148 countries. We operated CW and SSB on all bands, 10 thru 160 meters.

Our next step will be Mayotte Island, and our call will be FH/W6KG. Please pass this information to all interested. All QSL's go to the YASME Foundation."

December 15, 1986 WY5I report.

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#### Repeater News

This note is to confirm that Tom, VE3CX has decided to call it quits on the repeater committee. There are a great many reasons for this decision, and I don't plan to get into the details here. Lets just say that it was a difficult decision, but it was the right one, for both me and the LARC.

Untill someone is appointed by the executive to look after VE3TER, please advise any member of the executive regarding any problems with the repeater.

73

Tom - VE3CX

## New Years Resolutions

Here we are in 1987, and we all know what that means - - New Years Resolutions. While we're sure you had one or two on mind, here are a few more to add to the list. Strap on your seat belt, cause here we go!!!

VE3JAA resolves to tie the knot!?!

VE3KRP resolves not to drink any more (not any less either - - after all, a 40 a day keeps the blues away!)

The gang at VE3TBA resolve to get a bigger pot (HMMMM - must be something big brewing)

VE3BBS reolves to get his phone **fixed**.

VE3JSC resolves to get his advanced!

VE3KRO resolves to find the missing 40 foot mast.

VE3OTC resolves to find where VE3TBU is hiding.

VE3KRV resolves to make his 'five year plan' last at least ten more years.

VE3XJ resolves to find some lighter-than-air aluminum, so it wont keep falling down.

VE3OTI resolves to fix his antenna - it has a mind of its own -- it keeps tracking the moon!

Courtesy - THE LEADING EDGE

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## Propagation

The first half of December was a time of good propagation, but with low MUF. Frequencies from 21 MGz down did well, with the Solar Flux running a steady course in the low 70s since late November. Activity on 28 Mhz was marginal and almost entirely transequatorial in nature. With the Geomagnetic A Index mostly below 10, energy absorbtion was low, making for exceptional signal quality on 160, 75 and 40 meters. A brief disturbance peaking mildly on the 14th did liftle damage. The above conditions are expected to continue through the froecast week but a more severe disturbance may develop about December 22 or 23. The solar Flux should rise slightly after the 18th, to make for longer and better openings on 10, 12 and 15 meters, through about the 25th. The New Year is expected to open with the Solar Flux in the low 70s, almost duplicating conditions of early December.

We are at a point in the solar cycle where new activity can break out at almost any time with little or no warning. Any major change from the conditions outlined above will be covered in a special bulletin as soon as possible.

American Sunspot Numbers for December 4 through 10 were between 0 and 18 with a mean of 4.1.

Courtesy of W1AW

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#### VE3 SR

The defence Fund for Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SR, the Canadian amateur who had a permanent injunction placed against his ham radio operation by a judge from the County Court in Ottawa last January has swelled to \$54,557.98. Even though given a clean bill by the DOC, Ravenscroft was found guilty of "Nuisance" when he interfered with a neighbour's appliances. A Toronto law firm has been retained for the appeal process. Donations go to: JRSD FUND, P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3J2.

Courtesy of WY5I Report

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#### VIARC Applies for DXCC Status Again

Richard N. Olsen, K7AWD, President of the Vienna (Austria) International Amateur Radio Club has sent letters to all ARRL directors and vice directors requesting their support of 4U1VIC for DXCC separate country status. These letters are in addition to one sent to League president Larry Price requesting that this issue be placed on the agenda of the next ARRL Board of Directors meeting scheduled for January, 1987. Copies were also sent to all major amateur radio publications.

Olsen says that after much correspondence and study over the past four years, the situation remains unresolved. "The amateur stations in two of the three major U.N. centers (4U1ITU - ITU building in Geneva and 4U1UN- the UN complex in New York) are separate DXCC countries, while one (4U1VIC - Vienna International Center) is not."

At issue is the ARRL's changing of the DXCC criteria. "Extraterritorial areas" are no longer recognized as separate DXCC countries. The fact remains, Rule 5(b) was changed!

Courtesy of WY5I Report

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#### Predictions for '87

Art, VE3LMG will return once more, to lead the club to bigger and better things...

Thunder Bay, will be big in packet radio when the digipeater with the satellite gateway takes to the air...

Thunder Bay will join the ranks of W6 land, and get a 1.2 Ghz repeater...

VE3YQT will have a new computer controller with speed dial, synthesized voice, voice commands, and a voice mail box...

The new repeater for Nipigon, with a link to Thunder Bay, will be in the final testing stages later this year, and become operational in 1988...

VE3FW will get a new 2 meter, all mode rig (100 watt version), with a pair of stacked beams...

VE3TBR will be reborn as a linear transponder, with a 1 KW afterburner...

TBARS will sport a new station location, as soon as the new building is completed...

Oh well, I tried...

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#### An Editorial Blurb

Well, another Year has come to an end, but I can say safely that "this year was definitely the most interesting I have ever lived". True I have not lived long enough to be an "old timer", and I am glad not to be an "old timer" because I want to see much more.

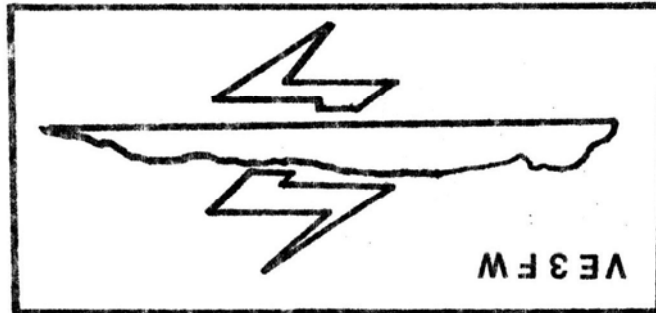
In 1986 I met just about the entire LARC membership and every individual from this club showed me more than 1 years amount of interesting events. Also they showed me what amateur radio means to them, and how much enjoyment they get from their aspect of amateur radio. I tried (and am still trying) to understand and enjoy their aspects of the hobby. I have not come across a single aspect yet that is not enjoyable, but for me some are much more enjoyable than others or atleast for the time being.

But, despite how all these great people are individually are, there seems to be problems. Some can not get along, and some are afraid to speak up. I am not complaining because I believe that it is not probable for every one to get along and especially here with such an intelligent and diverse group. If it was probable progress would not be as swift.

In closing I believe that the LARC is a super club and I am sure it will remain that way in at least the same number of aspects for 1987, and then many years after that.

Happy New Years, and may 1987 give you all you deserve.

GARNET VE3AUP



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H1-Q

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